

What is claimed is:

*air bag is
controlled by ignition
key*

1. An electrically controllable safety device for use by an occupant of a vehicle, the vehicle powered by a motor activatable by an electrical ignition system, the safety device
- 5 comprising:

a safety enhancer; and
a controller;

wherein the controller and the safety enhancer are electrically coupled to the ignition system, so that the controller may only activate the safety enhancer while the motor is on and, once

10 activated, the safety enhancer may only be deactivated by turning the motor off.

2. A stimulator for use by a sleepy driver of a vehicle, the vehicle powered by a motor activatable by an electrical ignition system, the stimulator comprising:

a signal generator capable of rousing the driver; and
a controller to activate the signal generator;

15 wherein the controller and the signal generator are electrically coupled to the ignition system, so that the controller may only activate the signal generator while the motor is on and, once activated, the signal generator may only be deactivated by turning the motor off.

3. A stimulator according to claim 2, wherein the signal generator includes a buzzer.

4. A stimulator according to claim 2, wherein the signal generator includes a warning

20 lamp.

5. A stimulator according to claim 3, wherein the signal generator includes a warning lamp.

6. A stimulator according to claim 2, wherein the controller includes a momentary switch.

25 7. A stimulator according to claim 6, wherein the controller further includes a relay.

8. A stimulator according to claim 7, wherein the controller further includes a diode.

9. A stimulator according to claim 8, wherein the relay is a changeover relay.

10. A method of using an electrically controllable safety device in a vehicle, the vehicle powered by a motor activatable by an electrical ignition system, the method comprising:

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powering the motor with the system,
activating a controller to turn the device on so that the system keeps the
device on; and
switching off the system to shut off the motor and the device.

- 5 11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the device is a stimulator for use by a sleepy driver.

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